

Your memorialists beg leave to state to your honorable body, that nearly \$7,000 of the rejected amount is the difference between seamen's wages, at sixteen dollars per month, and the pay of militia-men, at eight dollars per month. Your memorialists were compelled, from their peculiar situation, in the year 1813, to employ, as means of defence, barges and look-out boats; and it will be within the recollection of your honorable body, that this species of defence was sanctioned and approved by the Government, who subsequently established, in the succeeding year, a flotilla, under the command of Commodore Barney, for the defence of the Chesapeake and its tributary waters. Those barges and look-out boats having been advised and recommended by the officers commanding at Baltimore, it became necessary to man them, and as that port was blockaded by the enemy, and the seamen were constantly leaving it for the neighboring ports of Philadelphia and New York, where they could get employment, your memorialists were obliged to pay them the same wages they could have obtained at those places, and did so accordingly. When this item came before the Secretary of War, he did not reject it upon the grounds that the expenditure was unnecessary, or not called for, but declared that he could not, under the law by which he must be governed, allow them more wages than were provided for soldiers or militia-men, and accordingly rejected so much of the amount as exceeded eight dollars per month. However proper it may have been, and undoubtedly was, for the Secretary of War, acting under the provisions of laws which he was bound to obey, to reject the claim of your memorialists, they humbly conceive that, if your honorable body should be satisfied of the necessity of the expenditure, and that the money was not wastefully, but, on the contrary, judiciously applied, they will not hesitate to direct its being refunded with interest.

Your memorialists beg leave respectfully to state to your honorable body, that, although the proofs of the disbursements made by the city of Baltimore were not such as would justify the Secretary of War in passing them as vouchers, yet they were sufficient to satisfy him that the whole amount claimed had been actually expended in the defence of the city, over and above a heavy amount of voluntary contributions. And when your honorable body consider that the citizens of Baltimore made many sacrifices, (if any thing can be called a sacrifice when the rights of our country are at stake;) that they garrisoned the forts in the neighborhood with their volunteer artillery and infantry; that they erected works and fortifications, and performed many other duties as soldiers, before they were called into the public service and pay of the United States, and for which they never received, nor claimed, or expected compensation; that these services and the defence which they afterwards made, were greatly instrumental in the preservation of their own city, and, thereby, of other cities of the Union, from the devastation threatened by the enemy along our sea-boards; and that their Committee of Vigilance and Safety, through whose hands the money borrowed by your memorialists passed, were unacquainted with the mode of keeping accounts as prescribed by the offices at Washing-